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**SECRET**

23 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

THROUGH: Special Support Assistant to the  
Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT: Survey Report No. 00796

REFERENCE: Headquarters Board of Survey memorandum  
to DD/S, dated 2 March 1956, with supporting  
documentation concerning above subject.

1. PROBLEM:

A. Referenced memorandum was returned to EE Division by your Office for the determination of the nationality of [REDACTED], Agency driver. This cited memorandum contains a recommendation that [REDACTED] be held pecuniarily liable in the amount of \$860.00 for damages caused by him to a 1952 Willys Jeep in [REDACTED]

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B. On the basis of a reappraisal of this case and the development of additional facts, it is recommended that [REDACTED] be granted relief from paying \$860.00 under the authority of CFR 1.4 c. This recommendation is also contained in paragraph 5 below.

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2. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

A. The Willys Jeep was damaged beyond repair when [REDACTED] lost control of the vehicle, causing it to overturn after striking a tree.

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B. Military Police state that [REDACTED] was traveling at fifty miles per hour and that he had been drinking at the time the accident occurred.

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C. [REDACTED] report states in pertinent part that he was driving only at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour when the Jeep's front right tire blew out, thereby causing the accident.

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D. The [REDACTED] Station Board of Survey recommends that [REDACTED] be held pecuniarily liable for the depreciated value of the vehicle. The Board also recommended that the accountable officer be relieved of accountability.

E. The Willys Jeep was cannibalized and scrapped for parts.

F. Further investigation disclosed that [REDACTED] is a stateless [REDACTED] of very limited means. At the time of the accident, he

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DD/S Chronology: E/S 77

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was under contract to project [REDACTED] as a courier handler and trainer, with several operational trips to his own credit.

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### 3. DISCUSSION:

A. From a review of the facts in this case, there appears to be serious doubts as to the actual speed at which the vehicle was traveling at the time of the accident. [REDACTED] reported that he was driving at a speed of twenty-five miles an hour while the Military Police's report stated that the speed was approximately fifty miles per hour. The MP's report that the primary cause of the accident was due to excessive speed was apparently based on the condition of the vehicle and not from information secured from any witnesses that may have seen the accident. Recent discussions at Headquarters with employees who are familiar with the road on which the accident occurred state that it is a high crowned road, hazardous when wet or icy, and that serious accidents have happened at low rates of speed under such conditions. However, the supporting documentation makes no mention of the condition of the road or the weather prevalent at the time of the accident.

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B. The question of negligence and drinking as a contributing factor in the accident are not asserted.

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C. Mr. [REDACTED] who was the Operations Officer of [REDACTED] base at the time of the accident, was queried in regard to the accident and provided the following additional information:

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(1) The original repair cost was estimated at approximately \$230.00 but the estimate did not include any frame and engine work which might be required after a more thorough check. This "more thorough check" (see [REDACTED] of the supporting documentation) apparently was never made; instead, it was determined that the vehicle would be cannibalized and the spare parts used in the motor pool, the remainder of the vehicle to be turned in as salvage. This does not appear fair to [REDACTED] as it is possible that a more thorough check might have indicated that no frame or engine work was required.

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(2) Other than his signed statement (part of the documentation attached to the referenced memorandum) it appears that [REDACTED] has had no other opportunity to express himself on this matter.

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D. Under the terms of his contract, [REDACTED] will receive a separation bonus of \$420.00 as a token of appreciation for past services under

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the [REDACTED] as indicated in paragraph 2. G. above. It does not appear to be in the best interest of the Organization, in view of the purpose for which the bonus will be granted, to request at the same time reimbursement for damages caused to the Agency vehicle. In the event that the course of action dictates that reimbursement should be attempted, the Agency would not benefit since it would probably result in a greater cost to relocate him in the United States.

4. CONCLUSION:

A. On the basis of the additional information obtained by the EE Division, it is not believed to be in the best interests of the Agency from a just, security, and operational viewpoint to attempt collection of the \$860.00 for which he is being held pecuniarily liable.

5. RECOMMENDATION:

A. It is recommended that [REDACTED] be released from pecuniary liability of \$860.00 under authority of CFR 1.4 c.

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[REDACTED]  
Chief, Eastern Europe Division

Concur: under provisions  
of CFR 1.4(d):

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(signed) [REDACTED]  
Special Support Assistant to the  
Deputy Director (Support)

Since this is a field agent, there is no record on the  
case in the Finance Division, Headquarters

(signed) [REDACTED]  
Chief, [REDACTED] Division

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Recommendation in Paragraph 5 is  
approved under provisions of  
CFR 1.4(d): 18 June 1956

(signed) H. Gates Lloyd  
Deputy Director (Support)

Assistant

DD/S Distribution:  
Orig. - Hq. Bd. of Survey  
1 - Comptroller  
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